

[English]

### Idle Aerodroms in West Bengal

985. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that several aerodroms remain non-functional or have become idle in different parts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, names of those idle aerodroms;

(c) whether there is any proposal to utilise these aerodroms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) In West Bengal four airports viz. Balurghat, Behala, Cooch Behar and Malda are non-functional.

(c) to (e) These airports are suitable for operation of Dornier 22 (20 seater) aircraft. No airline has indicated interest in operating this type of aircraft to these stations. At present, AAI has no plans to upgrade these airports.

### Unserviceable Telephones in Allahabad

986. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephones in Allahabad lying unserviceable;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in making them operational;

(c) the number of persons in the waiting list for new telephone connections in Allahabad;

(d) the time by which new connections are likely to be given to them;

(e) when the telephone Directory for Allahabad was issued last and when the new Directory is likely to be issued; and

(f) the measures taken to tone up the working of the telephones in Allahabad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 604 as on 21.2.97.

(b) There is no case pending for more than 15 days. There are a few cases pending for more than a week's time due to theft and multiple and scattered cable faults. These are being attended to vigorously.

(c) 5556 as on 31.1.97.

(d) The waiting list of the applicants in part (c) as on 31.1.97 is likely to be cleared by March, 98.

(e) The last telephone directory was issued in April, 95. New directory is under print and is likely to be issued to the subscribers in the month of March, 1997.

(f) The following remedial measures have been taken for improving the telephone services at Allahabad :

(i) Computerisation and Fault Repair Service.

(ii) Replacement of over head alignments by under-ground cables.

(iii) Use of insulated wire/drop wire in place of bare iron wire.

(iv) RLUs (Remore line unit) exchanges are being opened to reduce cable conductors lengths in local loop.

(v) The rural exchanges are being upgraded to higher capacity digital exchanges.

(vi) For further reducing the faults and to improve the services a programme of upgradation of the out door plant has been launched.

### Pitfalls in International Film Festival of India

987. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some pitfalls were noticed in the 28th International Film Festival of India held at Thiruvananthapuram on January 10, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this year's Indian Panorama screened at the IFFI had far fewer films than in the previous years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No serious shortcoming was noticed during 28th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held at Thiruvananthapuram. Films from about 47 countries participated in the Festival, with special emphasis on films from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A maximum of 21 feature and 21 non-feature films can be selected for the Indian Panorama every year. The Selection is done by selection panel consisting of eminent persons from all over the country. Since the selection is done on merit by the selection panel, the number of films selected varies from year to year. This year the selection panel found 14 feature films and 16 non-feature films suitable for inclusion in the Indian Panorama.

### Inadequate Arrangements of Potable Water

988. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that New Bongaigaon, Nalbari, Barpeta Road, Rangiya and

Kokrajhar railway stations in Assam have no adequate arrangements of potable water and as a result thereof passengers have to face great difficulties;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any scheme for providing potable water on the said railway stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Drinking water facilities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled has already been provided at all stations.

#### Installation of High Tech Radar in A.P.

989. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether high-tech radar was installed at Begumpet airport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose therefor;

(c) if so, whether by setting up this radar the Government will be in a position to detect the alien aircraft;

(d) whether any other airports have been provided with such facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the airports are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) have been commissioned in September, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Airport Surveillance Radar will detect any aircraft flying within 60 nautical miles radius. The Secondary Surveillance Radar can detect aircraft equipped with transponders within 250 nautical miles radius.

(d) and (e) ASR/MSSR facilities have been commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram airport. This equipment is being installed at Delhi, Guwahati, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay airports and will be commissioned during the period March 1997 to August, 1997.

#### Modernisation of Barddhaman Railway Station

990. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for modernisation and expansion of Barddhaman Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Works of remodelling of yard, replacement of indoor and outdoor signalling gears, computerisation of passenger reservation system, provision of battery charging facilities, extension/provision of shed on various platforms, improvements to lighting, provision of additional tube well and provision of train indicator board have been taken up at Barddhaman railway station.

#### Construction of Overbridge at Level Crossings

991. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the level crossings on NH 17 at Muzhappilangad, Nadal And Chovva in Cannanore district of Kerala create bottlenecks for the road transport causing undue delay and wastage of time of passengers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to construct over bridges at above crossings;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for construction of overbridges at above crossings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Kerala State Governments was advised to sponsor the proposal required under extant rules, which is still awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Prasar Bharati Bill

992. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Broadcasting Authority in order to streamline the functioning of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted for the Prasar Bharati Bill with various Political Parties/State Governments;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.